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Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Appointments to Wicomico and Harford County Boards of Education

August 2nd, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick to the Harford County Board of Education, and Ms. Kimberly Hudson to the Wicomico County Board of Education. The Governor also announced the reappointment of Dr. Tyrone Chase and Mr. Ronald O. Willey to the Wicomico Board of Education.

"These individuals come from a strong field of 12 very qualified and diverse candidates," said Governor O'Malley. "Each of them brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and we are confident in their ability to help us build on the progress we're making for our number-one ranked public schools."

Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick has been appointed to a term ending June 30, 2015, representing the Havre de Grace community (District F). He is currently the manufacturer's representative with Storm-Services, LLC. Throughout his career, he has developed comprehensive strategic plans, and worked with state and local government to address storm water management. Mr. Fitzpatrick will bring the perspective of the business community to the Board's deliberations. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers Technical Advisory Committee on Storm Water Issues, and a member of the Havre de Grace Lions Club and the County Engineers Association of Maryland. He also serves his community as a member of the Havre de Grace Planning and Zoning Commission and the Havre de Grace Independence Day committee.

Mr. Fitzpatrick earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Loyola College and his master's in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from the University of Baltimore. He has lived in Harford County since 1962.

The appointment of Mr. Fitzpatrick fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Ronald Browning.

Ms. Kimberly Hudson has been appointed to a term ending June 30, 2016. She currently writes a weekly parenting column for The Daily Times and works part-time at Salisbury University in the Perdue School of Business, providing reception services for the Franklin P. Perdue Museum of Business and Entrepreneurship.

As a co-founder of Parents in Action, she advocated before the County Council for school construction funding and the annual operating budget. Before deciding to spend more time with her children, she was an educational support advisor in the Wicomico County Public School System, and before that, a school counselor and school guidance counselor in the Dorchester County elementary schools.

She and her family have lived in Wicomico County since 1978, and her two children attend Wicomico County Public Schools, where she remains active in the local PTA. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Salisbury University in 1992 and a master's degree in

Education in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in 1997.

Ms. Hudson fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Michelle Wright.

Wicomico County Reappointments

Dr. Tyrone Chase is the Administrator of the Office of Community and Family Development for SHORE UP, Inc. and is an adjunct instructor for Sojourner-Douglas College in Salisbury. He graduated from Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree and holds a master's degree from the Seidel School of Education, Salisbury University, and a doctorate of philosophy from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Mr. Ronald Willey, the current president of the Board, is a former teacher and principal having retired in 2006 after 44 years of service in the Wicomico County Public School System. He is lifelong resident of Wicomico County. He graduated from Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and holds a master's degree from West Virginia University.

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Governor O'Malley Submits Legislation on Gaming Expansion

August 7th, 2012

(August 7, 2012) – Governor Martin O'Malley today submitted legislation authorizing expansion of gaming in Maryland. The legislation has the potential to create thousands of new jobs and secure millions of dollars in new revenue for Maryland's public schools.

"By finally resolving this issue of gaming in Maryland, we have an opportunity to generate more than \$100 million for our #1 ranked public schools, create 2,200 additional, permanent jobs, and keep Maryland's facilities competitive with surrounding states."

"The legislation we are sending to the members of the General Assembly will create predictability in the marketplace, protect local and city aid being generated at existing sites, ensure authorized facilities are able to be built, and allow the people of Prince George's County the opportunity to decide whether they want a sixth site for the benefit of their county and revenue base."

The Governor's bill and other pertinent documents can be found here:

<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/session.asp>

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Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Maryland Infant Mortality Rate has been Driven Down to Record Low

August 8th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Joshua M. Sharfstein at the Anne Arundel Medical Center to announce that the state's infant mortality rate remains at a record low of 6.7 deaths per 1000 live births in 2011—the lowest rate ever recorded in Maryland for two years in a row. The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths among infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.



The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made driving down infant mortality by 10 percent one of 15 strategic goals to improve the quality of life in Maryland. Maryland's infant mortality rate has been driven down by 16 percent since 2008, when the rate was 8.0. In 2011, 493 infants lost their lives compared to 617 in 2008.

"The bottom line is that our strategies for driving down infant mortality are saving lives," said Governor O'Malley. "Over these past few years we've made great strides. We've been able to expand health care access to young women and parents, build on local public health efforts, and educate new parents on safer sleep practices. But progress is never inevitable – it has to be earned. We have to work for it – and therefore our work continues."

Many factors have contributed to the decline in infant mortality rates in recent years. With state and local partners working together, Maryland has expanded health care access to young women and parents, local public health efforts, and safer sleep practices. The state's Babies Born Healthy Initiative includes new Comprehensive Women's Health services for women at

risk, Accelerated Certification of Eligibility for pregnant women seeking Medicaid coverage, community-based “perinatal navigators” to help pregnant and postpartum women access services, and referrals from birthing hospitals to local health departments for follow-up of high-risk mothers and infants. The State has also distributed more than 4,000 DVDs of the B'More for Healthy Babies video on safe sleep at <http://healthybabiesbaltimore.com>.

Despite the substantial overall improvement, disparities in infant mortality continue to persist. Infant deaths occurred three times more frequently among black infants than among white infants in 2011. In 2011, African-American infant mortality fell in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, but increased in other parts of the state. As a result, there was a small, non-statistically significant increase in the disparity between African-American and white babies in Maryland. Infant mortality rates have also remained high on the Eastern Shore, compared to other areas of the state.

“Through programs like our innovative Health Enterprise Zones initiative, we are now putting a greater focus on disparities in infant mortality and other diseases in order to continue our public health progress in Maryland,” said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, who leads the O'Malley-Brown Administration's health care reform efforts. “We must build on our success and continue working towards a day when every infant born in Maryland, of every race or ethnicity and from every community, has the same chance to survive and live a healthy, happy life.”

Three new promising initiatives are underway or will be underway soon. These include:

- The expansion of family planning services to all women with incomes below 200% of the poverty line through the Medicaid program. This expansion began in January 2012.
- The Health Enterprise Zone program, which will focus resources and incentives in areas of the state with significant disparities in chronic illness. The first Zones are expected to be moving forward by January 2013.
- The full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which will give nearly all Maryland women access to affordable health coverage.

“These new efforts will help many Maryland women, men and children stay healthy,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “Over time, these efforts should drive further improvements in a number of our state's health outcomes, including infant mortality.”

To review the Department's newly released 2011 Infant Mortality Report, visit <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/vsa/Documents/imrep11.pdf>

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Governor O'Malley Appoints Tammy Brown as Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

August 8th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Tammy Brown as Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). Ms. Brown brings 15 years of increasing levels of responsibility in Maryland's criminal justice system. She will officially start her position as Executive Director on September 5th.

"The most important responsibilities we have as public servants are to create jobs and to protect the public's safety," said Governor O'Malley. "Tammy Brown brings more than a decade of experience in public safety administration to GOCCP and has made significant achievements in improving communication and collaboration among all public safety agencies. Together, with the men and women of law enforcement, we have driven down violent and property crime rates to 36-year lows. I am confident that Tammy will be a key part of our efforts to drive crime down even further and make our communities safer for all Maryland families."

Most recently, Ms. Brown served as the Chief of Staff of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). While at DJS, she helped to implement case management reforms including the development and implementation of the Violence Prevention Initiative. Prior to her role as chief of staff, she served as director of communications for DJS, where she spearheaded increased levels of information sharing with law enforcement. She helped pass legislation to allow juvenile information to be shared with system counterparts in the District of Columbia.

Prior to coming to the State of Maryland, Ms. Brown served as the executive director of the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council where she was responsible for organizing the various federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies, focusing on cross-functional improvements of the criminal justice system in Baltimore City. While in her capacity as the director, she reformed the systems at the Baltimore Central Booking Center to ensure people were processed efficiently, while still preventing releases with open warrants. Ms. Brown also assisted the Baltimore City Police Department in implementing a lethality assessment to identify potential domestic violence victims. She advocated for, and her office supported, the creation of the domestic violence centralized prosecution unit, a unit of law enforcement and prosecutors' offices located together in the courthouse to provide focus and collaboration on domestic violence cases.

Ms. Brown previously worked as a fellow from the Open Society Institute, focusing on both legal services for the homeless and helping ex-offenders re-enter society. She holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a Bachelor's degree in Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government from American University.

Ms. Brown is a long-time Baltimore City resident.

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Governor O'Malley Requests Federal Drought Assistance to Help Maryland Farmers

August 8th, 2012

Governor submits formal letter to U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for disaster designation

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley has formally submitted [a letter](#) to the United States Department of Agriculture requesting a Secretarial Disaster Designation for all Maryland counties impacted by the severe dry weather and excessive heat during the months of June and July. Governor O'Malley sent the letter to Secretary Tom Vilsack of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.



"Working with the State Farm Service Agency and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, we estimate that farmers in 13 Maryland counties have lost between 30 and 54 percent of their corn crop," said Governor O'Malley. "By requesting this disaster designation, we hope to provide some relief to our local farmers, who are a vital part of Maryland's economy, and we will continue to work with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and our federal delegation to help our farmers get through this drought."

"We are concerned that Maryland's farmers may have trouble paying their bills due to the drought that has been impacting parts of the State during the past several months," said Buddy Hance, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. "We are working closely with both the federal government and

local jurisdictions to ensure that Maryland's farmers are protected during this arid growing season."

Maryland experienced a dry, mild winter with rainfall amounts that are well below average. This shortfall has continued into the spring and summer, the most critical time for the development of most summer field crops. While the Mid and Lower Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland appear to be the driest regions, data analysis from the National Drought Mitigation Center shows 76 percent of the State in at least abnormally dry conditions. Fifty-one percent is in a moderate drought while nearly 30 percent is in a severe drought.

The FSA data show that the following Maryland counties are reporting crop losses at more than 30 percent in 2012:

Anne Arundel
Dorchester
Somerset
Calvert
Kent
Talbot
Caroline
Prince George's
Wicomico
Cecil
Queen Anne's
Charles
St. Mary's

To support Maryland farmers during this time of need, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is offering free testing of grain for the presence of aflatoxins and other toxins, which can be present under drought conditions and are poisonous to livestock.

To read the Governor's letter, [click here](#).

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Statement from Governor O'Malley on Preliminary July Jobs Report

August 17th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on the U.S. Department of Labor's release of preliminary employment data for the month of July in which Maryland's private sector created 2,400 jobs.

"Maryland's private sector businesses created 2,400 new jobs last month – leading Maryland's progress in this recovery with 96 percent of the total 22,600 jobs we've created over the past 12 months, the best July to July of private sector growth since before the Bush recession. Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics revised their preliminary June jobs report upward by 2,900 jobs.

"Today, over 18,000 more Marylanders are working than compared to last July. But in this fragile jobs recovery, every job counts. As moms and dads continue to fight to put food on the table, together, we must do everything in our power to create jobs and expand opportunity for a better, stronger future. We cannot afford to go back to the job-killing policies that led our nation to record job losses and badly damaged state economies. We cannot afford to slash the safety net that so many of our most vulnerable people depend on, and we cannot afford to make deep and lasting cuts to critical job-creating initiatives as we fight to make progress in this recovery.

"Progress is a choice. Job creation is a choice. And together, Marylanders continue to make the choices to move forward—by educating, innovating and rebuilding our economy—because the most important job we create is the next one."

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Train Derailment in Ellicott City

August 21st, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on this morning's CSX train derailment.

"It is tragic that we've lost two young women in the train derailment early this morning in Ellicott City. I've spoken with County Executive Ulman, and the State will continue to support our first responders and local partners in Howard County."

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Shooting at Perry Hall High School

August 27th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement on today's shooting at Perry Hall High:

"Today, on this first day of school for many students in our State, we've suffered a senseless act of violence. I'd like to thank the teachers and administrators for their courageous and life-saving actions. At this time, our thoughts and prayers are with the injured student and his family."

"I've spoken with County Executive Kamenetz, and we will continue to support all of our local partners in Baltimore County. It takes all of us working together to make our schools safer for our children."

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Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Historic Reductions in Crime

August 29th, 2012

Maryland's total incidents of crime and total crime rate lowest since 1975

Violent crime, homicides and property crime driven down to the lowest levels since 1975

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that 2011 year-end crime data compiled by the Maryland State Police and submitted to the FBI for use in the national crime statistics report shows that violent crime, homicides and property crime in Maryland have been driven down to the lowest levels since 1975. Total crime has been driven down 4.6 percent with 9,399 fewer crimes reported compared to 2010. This marks the lowest number of total crimes and total crime rate ever reported in Maryland since the Uniform Crime Reporting program was adopted in 1975.



"Our most solemn obligation is to protect the public's safety," said Governor O'Malley. "Working together with our local, state, and federal partners in law enforcement and community and neighborhood leaders across the State, we've driven down crime to its lowest levels since 1975. But there is still more work to do as just one life lost to violence is one too many. It takes all of us to make Maryland a safer place for our families and children."

In 2011, together with the hardworking members of Maryland's law enforcement, the State

drove down the number of homicides by 6.6 percent; incidents of rape by 2.6 percent; robberies by 6.5 percent; aggravated assaults by 10.8 percent; incidents of breaking and entering by 2.5 percent; larceny/theft by 3.1 percent; and motor vehicle thefts by 10.9 percent. Fifteen jurisdictions drove down total crime while 18 jurisdictions drove down specific violent crime categories such as homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Thirteen jurisdictions drove down property crimes such as breaking and entering, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.

[The O'Malley-Brown Administration has set strategic goals to reduce crime in Maryland.](#) From 2006 to 2011, Maryland drove down violent crime 24.4 percent –exceeding the Administration's goal to drive down violent crime by 20 percent by end of 2012. The Administration also set a goal to reduce crimes against women and children by 25 percent by 2012. As of 2011, Maryland has driven down juvenile homicides 36 percent and homicides against women 11.8 percent. Law enforcement officers and public safety professionals throughout Maryland continue to work together to achieve this goal.

"The dramatic reduction in Maryland's violent crime rate demonstrates the value of a coordinated effort by state, local and federal law enforcement agencies to identify dangerous career criminals and remove them from our community," said U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein. "Sending armed felons and violent repeat offenders to prison prevents them from committing crimes, deters others from following in their footsteps and builds public confidence in law enforcement."

"The 2011 UCR statistics are encouraging and indicative of an ongoing state, local and federal law enforcement partnership which the men and women of the Maryland State Police are proud to be a part of," said Colonel Marcus Brown, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. "We continue to benefit from the strong support of the O'Malley-Brown Administration in areas including DNA technology, cross-border information sharing, and interoperable communication that enable Maryland law enforcement to more effectively combat violent crime and make our state safer."

The Administration remains committed to continuing these historic reductions in crime with seamless coordination and consistent information sharing; advances in technology; more effective warrant service, continued focus on violent repeat offenders; and improved supervision of offenders on probation and parole through the Violence Prevention Initiative. Maryland's inter-state partnerships with public safety counterparts in the District of Columbia, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York continue to prove effective in tracking and monitoring violent offenders who move across jurisdictional boundaries. Other tools such as License Plate Readers, automated pawnshop reporting, and the state's Criminal Justice Dashboard have been instrumental in supporting efforts to fight crime.

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